



FISCAL MEMORANDUM

SB 274 - HB 322

April 12, 2023

SUMMARY OF BILL AS AMENDED (006917, 007274, 007361, 007265):

Makes various revisions to the Schools Against Violence in Education (SAVE) Act. Authorizes a representative of the Tennessee Sheriffs' Association and the Tennessee Association of Chiefs of Police to be appointed to the state-level safety team. Transfers responsibility to establish a state-level safety team from the Commissioner of the Department of Education (DOE) to the Commissioner of Safety. Requires public charter schools to adopt a comprehensive district-wide school safety plan and for public charter schools, private schools, and church-related schools to adopt building-level school safety plans. Requires each local education agency (LEA) and public charter school to provide safety plans and floor plans for all school buildings to DOE, Safety, and each local law enforcement agency with jurisdiction by July 1, 2023, and each July 1, thereafter. Requires each district-wide school safety team and building-level school safety team to consider including in the district-wide school safety plan or building-level school safety plan the implementation of a mobile panic alert system. Requires each private school and church-related school to provide the school's building-level school safety plan to each local law enforcement agency with jurisdiction, as well as any law enforcement agency or other emergency response organization participating in an armed intruder drill by October 1, 2023, and by each October 1 thereafter. Requires school building entrances to be locked. Authorizes State and local law enforcement personnel to inspect a door serving as an entrance to, or exit from, a school building to determine whether the door is locked.

Authorizes the Commissioner of DOE to withhold state funds allocated to an LEA or public charter school in TISA for failure to comply with certain requirements following a violation of this section. Establishes certain reporting requirements for the Commissioner of Safety, LEAs, and public charter schools. Establishes various safety requirements for school buildings constructed or remodeled after July 1, 2023. Requires, as opposed to authorizes, each LEA to adopt a policy to establish a threat assessment team within the LEA. Requires active shooter training for armed security guards or security officers providing security or patrol services at or in a public school.

FISCAL IMPACT OF BILL AS AMENDED:

Other Fiscal Impact – Additional safety requirements for school buildings constructed or remodeled after July 1, 2023 may increase local expenditures. However, it is assumed that LEAs will decrease expenditures elsewhere or delay construction or remodeling projects until sufficient funding is available. For schools that implement a mobile alert panic system, a permissive increase in

local expenditures may occur. However, due to multiple unknown variables, a precise fiscal impact cannot be reasonably quantified.

Assumptions for the bill as amended:

- The additional members of the state-level safety team, if appointed, will not receive compensation or reimbursement for travel expenditures.
- The proposed legislation requires each LEA, public charter school, private school, and church-related school to ensure that all exterior doors leading into a school building are locked at all times and access to school buildings is limited to the school's primary entrance, unless otherwise determined by school policy.
- If the LEA or public charter school does not currently have a school resource officer (SRO) and is found to have violated the locked door requirement on two or more occasions in one school year, then the LEA or public charter school must post a full-time SRO or armed school security officer at the school within 30 days.
- The proposed legislation establishes a corrective action plan and funding implications for schools that are found to have violated the locked door requirements.
- For schools that currently have an SRO, the Commissioner of DOE is authorized to withhold the annual state funds, in either the current or upcoming school year, allocated to the LEA or public charter school in TISA as follows:
 - 2% for a third violation in one year;
 - 4% for a fourth violation in one year;
 - 6% for a fifth violation in one year;
 - 8% for a sixth violation in one year; and
 - 10% for a seventh violation in one school year.
- For schools found in violation, funds will be withheld until the LEA or public charter school: posts the required SRO or armed school security officer; provides evidence demonstrating that the violation has been remedied; and submits a corrective action plan.
- The amount of TISA funding withheld will vary by school and number of students served. Based on the February TISA estimates, the amounts will range from \$105 to \$346,396 based on a two percent withholding.
- For LEAs and public charter school district that are required to post an SRO at the school, this may result in unplanned costs and increase local expenditures.
- However, there is \$20,000,000 in school safety grant funds and an additional \$1,000,000,000 included into the base of TISA. Therefore, it is assumed that LEAs and public charter schools will have access to sufficient funding to cover the cost of corrective action measures.
- The proposed legislation requires each district-wide school safety team and building-level school safety team to consider including in the district-wide school safety plan or building-level school safety plan the implementation of a mobile panic alert system that is capable of connecting diverse emergency services technologies to ensure real-time coordination between multiple first responder agencies and that integrates with local public safety answering point infrastructure to transmit 911 calls and mobile activations.
- The cost to install a mobile panic alert system will depend on multiple variables such as the type and number of components purchased and the size of the school.

- It is unknown how many schools may choose to purchase a mobile panic alert system and what the total installation costs may be. A school that implements a mobile panic alert system will incur a permissive increase in local expenditures. However, due to multiple unknown variables, a precise fiscal impact cannot reasonably be quantified.
- The proposed legislation further requires a public school building, including a public charter school building, constructed or remodeled after July 1, 2023, to, at a minimum, include:
 - A door-locking mechanism on each classroom door that allows the classroom door to be locked from the inside;
 - Bullet-resistant or entry-resistant film on the glass panel of each exterior entry or basement level window and door;
 - A camera system that continuously monitors each entrance, hallway, and communal area in the school building during regular school hours and during school-related events; and
 - At least one secure vestibule that serves as the primary entrance to the school building that contains two separate sets of doors through which a person must pass to gain entrance into the school building that are each capable of being locked separately.
- It is assumed that school buildings constructed or remodeled after July 1, 2023 will follow best practice safety considerations. Additionally, complying with the proposed safety requirement may increase local expenditures. However, it is assumed that in order to defray the increased costs, LEAs may reduce expenditures elsewhere or delay remodeling or construction projects until sufficient funding is available.
- It is assumed that any schools found in violation of the locked door requirement will follow the corrective action requirements and avoid having TISA funds withheld.
- It is assumed that SROs and school security guards currently go through active shooter training; therefore, any expenditures with training is considered not significant.
- DOE, Safety, LEAs and public charter schools will be able to comply with the proposed safety requirements within existing resources. Any fiscal impact is estimated to be not significant.

CERTIFICATION:

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.



Krista Lee Carsner, Executive Director

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